

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 00925 160824Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
ACDA-07 IO-13 /083 W  
-----160838Z 059696 /21

R 160743Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
TO SECSTATE WASH DC 7307  
INFO AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 0925

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3  
TAGS: PFOR, KU, KN, KS  
SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN DEPUTY PREMIER VISIT TO KUWAIT

REF: KUWAIT 747

1. AS NOTED REFTTEL, ONE OF NORTH KOREA'S DEPUTY PREMIERS, CHONG CHUN-KI, SPENT FEB 2 - 7 IN KUWAIT ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT. KUWAITI FINMIN ATEEQI WAS OFFICIAL GREETER AND LEAVE-TAKER. AMONG THE VISITOR'S REPORTED ACTIVITIES IN KUWAIT WERE A SOCIAL VISIT TO A SCHOOL, A CHAT WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY PEOPLE (ABOUT WHICH THE PRESS REPORTED NOTHING), A TOUR OF KUWAIT OIL COMPANY FACILITIES, AND A MEETING WITH THE KUWAITI MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS. ONE NEWSPAPER REPORTED THAT DURING THIS LAST MEETING THE MINISTER TOLD CHONG THAT "KUWAIT WELCOMES PARTICIPATION FROM ANY COUNTRY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF KUWAIT," IN RESPONSE TO CHONG'S OFFER TO BUILD BRIDGES AND ROADS. LOCAL SOUTH KOREAN TRADE MISSION REP. TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE MEETING WITH THE KUWAITI PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER WAS LAID ON AT THE LAST MINUTE, AND THAT CHONG SAID NORTH KOREA WOULD UNDERTAKE TO UNDERBID SOUTH KOREA ON ALL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN KUWAIT. THE MINISTER REPORTEDLY RESPONDED TO THE EFFECT THAT NORTH KOREA SHOULD INDEED BID  
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ON PROJECTS HERE, LIKE ANY OTHER COUNTRY.

2. SOUTH KOREAN TRADE MISSION REP TOLD US THAT HE HAD INFORMATION THAT CHONG HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN SOME TIME AGO ON A REQUEST TO VISIT KUWAIT, BUT THAT THE NORTH KOREANS EVENTUALLY HAD PREVAILED, DUE TO PERSISTENCE AND THE USE OF A PHONY TITLE FOR CHONG --HE WAS DESCRIBED AS "DEPUTY

PREMIER FOR CULTURAL AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTRUCTION," OR SIMILAR TITLE, BY THE KUWAITI MEDIA. (WE DID HAVE ONE REPORT THAT THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT SUCCESSFULLY INTERCEDED WITH THE GOK, WHILE CHONG WAS VISITING IRAQ IN JANUARY, TO BRING ABOUT THE VISIT TO KUWAIT.) THE SOUTH KOREANS WERE MAINLY CONCERNED THAT THE CHONG VISIT MIGHT RESULT IN A CULTURAL AGREEMENT, WHICH SEOUL ITSELF HAS BEEN WORKING ON FOR TWO YEARS, BUT NEITHER WE NOR THE SOUTH KOREAN TRADE MISSION HAVE ANY EVIDENCE THAT KUWAIT PLANS TO SIGN SUCH AN AGREEMENT WITH NORTH KOREA.

3. COMMENT: OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE CHONG VISIT IS THAT THE KUWAITIS HAD LITTLE INTEREST IN IT AND MAY NOT HAVE WANTED IT AT ALL AT THIS BUSY TIME. THEY PROVIDED A LIGHT, RATHER MUNDANE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND, WHILE THE USUAL NICE THINGS WERE SAID IN PUBLIC ABOUT GOOD RELATIONS, THERE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN LITTLE OR NOTHING OF SUBSTANCE DISCUSSED. WE DOUBT THAT THE KUWAITI SIDE HAD ANYTHING IT WANTED TO TAKE UP WITH CHONG.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X3  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NORTH KOREAN DEPUTY PREMIER VISIT TO KUWAIT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, OVIP, KU, KN, KS, (CHONG CHUN-KI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009